Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

The claims, in their currently pending form, are listed as follows for ease of reference:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communication over a network that allows for the authentication of individuals and control of information comprising:

 registering with a discovery machine a first user and a second user, wherein said first user maintains a first client machine and said second user maintains a second client machine, wherein said first client machine, said second client machine and said discovery machine are coupled to a network;

 initiating a communication from said second user via said second client machine to said first user via said first client machine through said discovery machine;

 the discovery machine determining that said first user will accept said communication;

 the discovery machine establishing a direct link between said first client machine and said second client machine; and

 delivering said communication over said direct link;

 wherein said direct link is not established if said first user does not accept said communication.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said direct link closes after said communication is delivered.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said communication is stored by said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of said second user initiating a new communication to said first user by establishing a new direct link between said second user machine and said first user machine.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to said new communication.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first user and said second user maintains a plurality of contact information.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein an individual entry in said plurality of contact information is automatically updated when an associated user of said individual entry updates a corresponding entry locally at a client machine of said associated user.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via a web page interface coupled to said discovery machine.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein a one-directional communication link is sent to said third user when at least one of said first and said second user replies to said new communication wherein said one-directional communication link allows said third user to send a future communication directly to said first or second user.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein determining that said first user will accept said communication further comprises the step of storing notification of said communication if said first user is unavailable.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said discovery machine is a central server.

14. (Withdrawn)

15-17 (Canceled)

18 - 26. (Withdrawn)

27-32 (Canceled)